center spacing is between about 0.90 and about 0.95. However, in this type of leveller, the

levelling forces and moments are large. For the purpose of reducing them, manufacturers

have developed levellers in which all of the ~~centre-to-centre~~ center-to-center spacings are

increased so that the ratio of the diameter to the ~~centre-to-centre~~ center-to-center spacing is

around 0.70 to 0.80. However, this no longer allows the non-developable defects to be

corrected over the entire range of the leveller in terms of strip thickness, and in particular on a

thinner strip.

Please add the following section heading at page 1, between line 31 and line 32:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 4 to 10, as follows:

For this purpose, the subject of the invention is a tensionless leveller intended for

levelling a metal strip, having an entry and an exit, comprising n+1 rolls, of the type

comprising two superposed cassettes each supporting at least n/2 motorized rolls of constant

radius R, offset with respect to one another and placed alternately above and below the path

of the strip, the axis of each of the rolls of one cassette being separated from the axis of the

immediately successive roll of the other cassette by a ~~centre-to-centre~~ center-to-center

spacing E_k, in which:

Please amend the paragraphs at page 2, lines ~~14~~ 13 to 15, as follows:

for k from 5 to n-1, $R/E_n \leq R/E_k \leq R/E_1$, and ~~R/E$_k$ ≤ R/E$_{k+1}$~~ $R/E_k \geq R/E_{k+1}$,

said leveller optionally including means for adjusting the ~~centre-to-centre~~ center-to-

center spacings E_k.

Map
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radius/centre-to-centre radius/center-to-center spacing ratio R/E_k is between 0.90 and 0.95

(limits inclusive). Next, a second zone in which one of the radius/centre-to-centre

radius/center-to-center spacing ratios, which will be called R/E_x is between 0.80 and 0.90

(limits inclusive) and the radius/centre-to-centre radius/center-to-center spacing ratio R/E_{x+1}

is between 0.75 and 0.85 (limits inclusive). This second zone lies between the fifth roll from

the entry of the leveller and the (n-4)th roll from the entry of the leveller, that is to say when

x varies from 5 to n-4. Finally, a third zone lies between the (x+2)th roll from the entry of the

leveller and the last roll of the leveller (the (n+1)th roll), that is to say when k varies from x+2

to n. In this third zone, the radius/centre-to-centre radius/center-to-center spacing ratio R/E_k is

constant and between 0.70 and 0.80 (limits inclusive).

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 19 to 23, as follows:

A conventional leveller, denoted by leveller X, comprising (k+1) rolls with k equal to

16, i.e. seventeen rolls, with a diameter of 57 mm and a constant centre-to-centre center-to-

center spacing E_k of 30 mm (a leveller of the BRONX type), therefore having a constant

radius/centre-to-centre radius/center-to-center spacing ratio R/E_k of 0.95, was modified in

order to obtain various levellers according to the invention, namely:

Please delete the current Abstract at page 12, lines 1 to 12, and add in its place the

new Abstract on the following page:

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